FTC news

Federal Trade Commission *Washington, D.C. 20580*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 30, 1985

NUMBER OF CIGARETTE BRANDS WITH LOW "TAR," NICOTINE AND CARBON MONOXIDE REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME, ACCORDING TO LATEST FTC REPORT

The latest Federal Trade Commission report on cigarette content shows that about the same number of brands have low "tar," nicotine and carbon monoxide as in the last report a year ago.

The tests showed that 152 of the 207 brands the FTC tested have no more than 15 milligrams of tar, compared with 158 of the 207 brands reported in March 1984. Cigarettes are considered by the government and industry to be low tar if they contain 15 milligrams or less tar.

Five brands had the lowest tar content, 0.5 milligrams or less of tar on the Commission's testing machine, up from four in March 1984. (Because the current testing methodology is not sensitive enough to differentiate between cigarettes with 0.5 milligrams or less tar, the tar content of these cigarettes is shown only with an asterisk.) Thirteen brands registered more than 20 milligrams of tar in both reports.

The number of brands with one milligram or less nicotine remained at 159, according to the new report. Six brands had more than 1.5 milligrams of nicotine, the same number as in the March 1984 report.

The number of brands with 10 milligrams or less of carbon monoxide decreased to 80, down nine from the previous report. Four brands were in the high range with 20 or more milligrams of carbon monoxide, two more than in last year's report.

The Commission has determined its present testing methodology does not measure Brown & Williamson's Barclay cigarettes accurately; therefore, no test results for Barclay are included in this report. The FTC has also found there is a significant likelihood the same problem exists with respect to Kool Ultra and Kool Ultra 100s; the two asterisks beside these brands indicate that possibility.

Samples tested for the current report came from two packages of each brand of domestic cigarettes, purchased in 50 locations throughout the United States from October 1983 through January 1984.

Testing of the tar and nicotine content of cigarettes began in 1967. Carbon monoxide testing began in 1980.

A Federal Register notice announcing the test results is scheduled to be published Monday, Feb. 4.

(More)

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Copies of the Federal Register notice are available from the FTC's Public Reference Branch, Room 130, 6th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580; 202-523-3598; TTY 202-523- 3638.

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